

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
127th Quarterly Commission Meeting
October 23, 2010 – Frankfort, KY
Paul Sawyer Public Library – Community Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Nina Coyer, Ms. Betty Timon, Mr. David Bayersdorfer, Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Cristal Collins, Ms. Marilyn Fenwick, Ms. Amy Hatzel, Mr. John Horsley, Ms. Michelle Niehaus, Mr. Ed Schickel and Ms. Sharon White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Patricia Freeman, Mr. Joe Scott and Mr. Jim Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Virginia L. Moore, Ms. Wilma Wright and Mr. Derek Drury

COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS: Ms. Rachel Rodgers, Ms. Tammy Cantrell and Ms. Laura Kogut

VISITORS: Ms. Rebecca Horsley, Mr. Johnny Horsley, Mr. Dale Horsley, Mr. Jazz Freeman and Ms. Melody Bock-Freeman.

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Coyer, Chair, introduced recently appointed Commissioners Marilyn Fenwick and Amy Hatzel representing the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID), respectively.

The Secretary, Commissioner Betty Timon, called roll and as there was a quorum present, the meeting continued. The Secretary asked for any corrections to the minutes from the 126th Quarterly Commission meeting held on July 23, 2010, at the Transportation Cabinet Office Building in Frankfort. No corrections were offered.

Commissioner Horsley (Commissioner White) MOVED TO ACCEPT the minutes from the 126th Quarterly Commission meeting as read. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Executive Board Report

The Executive Board discussed the recent Board appointments by the Governor's Office for HLAA and KyRID and met with the new Commissioners after the meeting. Commissioner Hatzel accepted the invitation to join the Executive Board as a member-at-large. Executive Board members commented on the successful Kentucky State Fair

and the consumers that event reached. KCDHH processed voluminous requests received from the fair. KCDHH received great feedback from the community about the success of DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 and since then meetings have been held in preparation for the partnership between DeaFestival-Kentucky and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) for the 2012 event that will draw a national audience to both venues.

The Board discussed other topics on the upcoming Commission meeting agenda:

- the vacant positions at KCDHH;
- the two study groups; and
- follow up from the spring retreat

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Agency Report

The Executive Director received positive feedback from the Commission Board on DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010, held in Horse Cave, KY. Staff, Commissioners and volunteers all worked together to ensure this event went smoothly. Communication was a major factor at this festival as the pool of performers and attendees included more individuals who were not extremely proficient in sign language but still faced the same communication barriers as those who are, making for a diverse production.

KCDHH received a surge of incoming requests resulting from outreach done at the Kentucky State Fair. Fairgoers requested information on sign language, interpreting, assistive devices, advocacy, amplified phones and wireless devices.

At the recent NAD national conference in Philadelphia, KCDHH participated in a meeting held by the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH), of which KCDHH is a member. Participants pulled together to streamline efforts in addressing current challenges faced by state coordinators / directors. The next NASADHH meeting is scheduled to occur during the 2012 NAD conference in Louisville and Kentucky will be facilitating the event.

KCDHH attended a conference focused on services for the senior population as an attendee and as a vendor to disseminate information on KCDHH programs and services. KCDHH will target the deaf and hard of hearing senior population to identify which services are needed and then address those needs with the respective service providers. These providers include social workers, mental health professional and senior homes staff.

KCDHH co-coordinated the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness conference held in Louisville, at which the Executive Director delivered a presentation on recent efforts on the Kentucky Hospital Association Effective Communications Committee. The presentation offered methods of making system changes from the top down.

Communication Services for the Deaf co-presented during the session on Project Endeavor, a national grant facilitated under the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program, which will assist deaf and hard of hearing individuals in obtaining and maintaining Internet access.

The Executive Staff Advisor and Executive Secretary II positions are vacant. The Executive Director will hold interviews soon to fill both positions.

As requested by the Board, Ms. Wilma Wright, Administrative Assistant II, attended the meeting to report to the Board as Commissioners requested more direct, open communication with staff members. Ms. Wright explained her job duties and responsibilities at KCDHH working in the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP), the constituents she serves, the equipment she is responsible for, and the reward she feels daily from working in the program. Ms. Wright has been with KCDHH for 10 years.

THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Finance Report

In addition to a 3 percent budget reduction, KCDHH executed three of the six furlough days required by the Governor in an effort to balance the state budget. Three days require the office to close while three more may be staggered among staff so the office remains open to the public. The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet must now preapprove all comp time requests. Last, KCDHH experienced a one-time reduction for the salary of the vacant Executive Staff Advisor position. The amount taken will be back in the agency's budget as of July 1, 2011. All expenses including TAP expenditures are on target and are monitored closely.

THE FINANCE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Telecommunications Access Program Report

Although the TAP Advisory Board did not meet this past quarter, a report was submitted to the Commission Board. As of July, Harris Communications and Teltex are the primary vendors of the amplified phones, TDDs and signalers. Weitbrecht Communications, Inc. and Griffin Laboratories were added as sole source providers after the Request For Proposal (RFP) process. The newest equipment distributed through TAP includes an amplified phone with photo dialing, a combination visual/auditory signaler, a tactile signaler (for low vision), the CapTel 800 and 800i and the DeafBlind Communicator (on request with verification of Braille usage required).

KCDHH recently ordered the first round of wireless devices added to the TAP distribution list. KCDHH staff has been using the phones and are extremely pleased. KCDHH will post Vlogs instructing consumers on the basics of the phones, using certain features and managing their monthly service plan effectively. KCDHH will conduct

additional research regarding age limitations to possess a cellular device that accesses the Internet.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

OPEN FORUM

As a project for a college class, Commissioner Brown will assign students to survey entertainment establishments (i.e., movie theaters) in Western Kentucky to see what assistive devices are available to use by individuals with a hearing loss. The results will be forwarded on to the Board.

The Board discussed how insurance companies evade state law requiring hearing aid coverage by using jurisdiction loopholes. KCDHH will pull together Commissioners who have addressed this issue and discuss outcomes and previous decisions.

The Board commented on the success of presenting the Communication Visor Cards to law enforcement personnel and those officers are anticipated to request more. With more law enforcement departments wanting the cards, KCDHH will work with these departments to find financial assistance in printing the cards. Emergency personnel from Eastern Kentucky University are considering developing a video to explain emergency procedures to the deaf and hard of hearing. Commissioners discussed tying these two projects together under a grant and having emergency personnel learn basic sign language.

Commissioner Hatzel suggested holding an event for key legislators at a movie theater and presenting the movie without sound for the first few minutes to emphasize the experience of a deaf or hard of hearing individual viewing a film without captioning. The Board discussed this idea and suggested theaters and movies to use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Access to Movie Theater Study Group

Commissioner Timon provided a summary of recent legislative activity regarding captioning in movie theaters and presented the short and long term goals for the reformed study group.

Commissioner Niehaus (Commissioner Hatzel) MOVED TO ACCEPT the proposed goals for the *Access to Movie Theater* study group. The motion carried.

Addressing Case Management Needs

Commissioner Niehaus reviewed the long-term and short-term goals for study group that will ascertain and address needs within the case management system.

Commissioner Hatzel (Commissioner Bayersdorfer) MOVED TO ACCEPT the proposed goals for the *Addressing Case Management Needs* study group. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

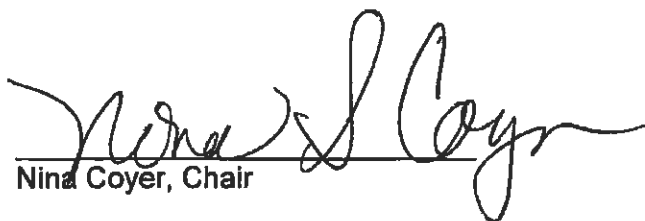
The Board discussed ideas on getting Commissioners more involved with staff members and office activities. KCDHH will consider Commissioners signing up for volunteer spots within the office so Board members can provide more valuable input into specific settings and consider Commissioners working outreach events.

The Commission recognized three outgoing Commissioners for their years of service and contribution to the deaf and hard of hearing community and the Commission. Previous Commissioner Melody Bock-Freeman was recognized as the outgoing service provider representative and awarded with a certificate. Previous Commissioners Edie Ryan and Robert Stuckey were unable to attend. KCDHH will ensure they receive their certificates and letters of appreciation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The 128th Quarterly Commission meeting will be held January 21, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort.
- The Kentucky Storytelling Association will hold its annual conference at the Kentucky Dam Village State Park on November 12 – 14, 2010.
- The Executive Board meeting will be held on December 8 at 1:30 p.m. at KCDHH.

Commissioner White (Commissioner Collins) MOVED TO ADJOURN. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.


Nina Coyer, Chair


Betty Timon, Secretary